BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

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- **The unemployment rate in B.C. rose to 6.7% in July**
- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports dropped 5.5% in June**
- **The average selling price of a new home in B.C. dipped 1.1% in June**

Labour Force

- **In July, 11,700 fewer people were employed in B.C., while the number of people participating in the labour force contracted slightly (-3,600).** As a result, the unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 6.7% (*seasonally adjusted*). Employment declines were concentrated among part-time workers (-17,800), with youth aged 15 to 24 (-16,400) and workers aged 55 and over (-7,600) experiencing the brunt of the losses in part-time employment. At the same time, the number of full-time positions increased, and total employment for youth declined by 7,700 and by 7,300 for workers aged 55 and over.

  Private sector employment declined in July (-11,800) and public sector employment decreased for the third month in a row (-5,100). Self-employment increased by 5,200 in July.

  The unemployment rate in B.C. was the 4th lowest in Canada—after Saskatchewan (4.0%), Alberta (4.5%) and Manitoba (5.5%). Among the western provinces growth in employment was strongest over the last 12 months in Saskatchewan (+3.9%), followed by Alberta (+3.0%), Manitoba (+1.5%) and B.C. (+0.1%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **When compared to June, the goods-producing sector was stable (+2,200 jobs) in July.** While there were declines in manufacturing (-6,400) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction (-3,300), gains in construction (+9,500) more than offset the losses. Over the twelve months ending in July 2013, employment in the goods-producing sector has declined by 5,200 jobs (-1.1%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationally, employment decreased by 39,400 in July, and the unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 7.2% (*seasonally adjusted*).** Employment declines were concentrated among youth aged 15 to 24 (-45,600). There were also declines among women aged 55 and over (-16,200). Among those aged 25 to 54 (+12,700) and men aged 55 and over (+9,800) there was little change from June. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports dropped 5.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June.** There were large declines in shipments of forestry products and building and packaging materials (-8.5%), metal and non-metallic mineral products (-14.0%), basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products (-21.4%) and aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts (-28.0%), as well as smaller slumps in most other commodity groups. Exports were down both to the United States (-2.6%) and the rest of the world (-8.0%). *Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada*

Housing

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipalities rose 10.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, after a 16.2% drop in May.** The increase was entirely due to a 35.7% increase in the non-residential sector, as commercial building permit values surged 96.6%. Meanwhile, activity was down for industrial (-42.7%) and institutional & government

Did you know...

There are 3,330 light bulbs that outline the Parliament Buildings in Victoria.

Data Source: Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

(-12.8%) projects. Residential permit values were relatively unchanged (-0.1%). Among B.C.'s largest metropolitan areas, Victoria (+85.2%) and Vancouver (+12.8%) posted double-digit increases following declines in the May, while permit values in Abbottsford-Mission (-29.2%) and Kelowna (-16.0%) continued to fall.

The total value of building permits issued in Canada fell 10.3% in June, with seven provinces registering declines, including Quebec (-31.1%), Ontario (-10.6%), Alberta (-0.4%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued year-to-date in British Columbia tumbled 10.4% in June, with five regions registering declines.** Permit values fell sharply in North Coast (-87.3%), and Cariboo (-40.8%), and dropped at a more moderate rate in Kootenay (-17.9%), Mainland/Southwest (-6.1%), and Vancouver Island/Coast (-1.1%). Planned spending on new projects was up in Nechako (+59.3%), Northeast (+19.5%), and Thompson/Okanagan (+1.4%). The overall decline in the province (-10.4%) was due to lower industrial (-60.2%), commercial (-16.4%), and institutional & government (-30.2%) permit values, as planned residential building construction was up 2.2%.

  Nationally, the year-to-date value of building permits fell 3.9%, with residential (-3.7%), industrial (-10.1%), and commercial (-5.6%) building intentions all declining. Institutional & government permit values were 3.3% higher than in the same period of 2012.

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **The average selling price for a new home (house and land) in British Columbia dipped 1.1% in June, compared to the same month a year earlier.** This was the largest decline recorded since May 2012 (-1.2%). New housing prices in both Vancouver (1.1%) and Victoria (- 1.4%) reflected the drop. Nationally, housing prices rose 1.8% between June 2012 and June 2013.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Safety

- **There were 185 avalanche-related deaths in British Columbia in the period between January 1st 1996 and June 13th, 2013, at an average of 10.3 deaths annually.** Of the 131 avalanches, 29 caused multiple deaths. The 2003/2004 season (*November through April*) had the highest number of fatalities on record during the period, at 25 deaths, including two separate avalanches which each claimed seven lives. The 2008/2009 season was a close second, at 24 deaths in 15 avalanches. In the 2012/2013 season there were five fatalities, of which all were male, with four taking place in the Interior region and one in the Northern region.

  The average age of decedents over the 1996 to 2013 period was 36.1 years, peaking in 2001/2002 at 45.3 years, and lowest in 1999/2000 at 30.8 years. Males (90%) account for the majority of decedents, at 167 deaths over the period, and an average of 9.3 deaths per year. There were 18 (10%) female deaths over the period, at an average of 1.0 annually.

  Avalanche-related deaths in the Interior accounted for 69% of the total, while 21% took place in the Northern region, 8% in the Metro region, 2% in the Island region, and under 1% in the Fraser region.

  Together, deaths that occurred while snowmobiling (40%) and skiing (35%) represented 75% of avalanche-related deaths. Heli-skiing-related incidents (14%) had the highest average age of decedents, at 40.5 years, while those that died while snowboarding (5%) had the lowest average age, at 29.0 years. There were 8 (4%) avalanche-related deaths that occurred while hiking or climbing, and 4 (2%) that occurred while decedents were on the job (*two avalanche technicians, a mining surveyor, and a cat skiing guide).*

  Data Source: BC Coroners Service, Ministry of Justice

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,650.0	0.9
Canada	35,141.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May 2013	3,404	1.6
Merchandise Exports - Jun 2013	2,643	-5.5
Retail Sales - May 2013	5,152	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Jun 2013)		
BC	-0.5	0.3
Vancouver	-0.4	0.5
Victoria	-0.8	0.1
Canada	1.2	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-11.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,473.7	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,309.0	-0.5
Unemployed - BC	164.7	5.2
		Jun 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.7	6.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 7/2013	Aug 8/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.10
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 7/2013	Aug 8/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0416	0.9947
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9594	1.0054
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul 2013	one year ago
BC	887.07	4.6
Canada	881.91	1.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Community Health Atlas

On June 24th, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), which partnered with a number of organizations including BC Stats, announced the release of the BC Community Health Atlas. Read about it here:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-06-28/BC_Community_Health_Atlas.aspx

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Exports, June 2013
- Earnings and Employment Trends, july 2013
- Labour Force Statistics, July 2013

To Release this week

- National Household Survey results for: Income, Earnings, Housing and Shelter Costs (Aug 14)

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